(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) Government has no inputs about shifting of camps by United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) from Bangladesh to Nepal. There is also no specific information or evidence about nexus between terrorist outfits of North Eastern States with Maoists of Nepal.

(c) and (d) Available inputs indicate that there are ideological and fraternal links between the Maoists of Nepal and Naxalite groups in India, but there is no specific evidence available of an operational or material relationship between them, including training.

Committee for upgradation of ITIs

*84. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any Committee for the upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs);

(b) if so, the composition and the mandate of such Committee; and

(c) what is the level of participation of private sector in this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government of India took up upgradation of 500 Government ITIs in the country on the basis of budget speech of Union Finance Minister, 2004-05 as follows:

(a) Upgradation of 100 ITIs through domestic funding at a cost of Rs. 160 crore since 2005-06.

(b) Upgradation of 400 ITIs through World Bank assistance at a cost of Rs. 1581 crores since 2006-07.

Union Finance Minister announced upgradation of the remaining 1396 Government ITIs by providing an interest free loan of upto Rs. 2.5 crore per ITI in Public Private Partnership mode in his budget speech of 2007-08.

Under these Schemes, an Institute Management Committee (IMC) is being constituted in each ITI to accomplish the task of upgradation. IMCs are being headed by an Industry Partner. There are four other members from the Industry on the I.M.C. The remaining five members are from the Government and Principal of the ITI is the member secretary of the IMC.

The IMC has mandate for upgradation of training infrastructure in the ITI in such a way that the quality of training is good and demand responsive. The participation from the industry has been very enthusiastic so far. Though financial contribution is not a pre-condition for participation, many industry partners have come forward by way of equipment, tools, machinery as well as financial resources.

Under Scheme (b) and the Scheme "Upgradation of 1396 Govt. ITIs through PPP" National Steering Committees at Central level and State Steering Committees at State levels have also been constituted. Composition and functions of these committees are attached as Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

For Scheme of upgradation of 400 ITIs through World Bank assistance

(a) National Steering Committee

Composition:- The National Steering Committee (NSC) has nine members as follows:

- The Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment is the Chairperson of the Committee,
- Three members nominated respectively by CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM,
- Three members nominated by the Government of India with particular expertise and interest in vocational training,
- The Financial Advisor to Ministry of Labour & Employment (or his nominee) as member; and
- The Director General of Employment & Training as *ex-officio* member, and acts as Secretary of the Committee.

Functions:

- Guiding the work of the National Project Implementation Unit (NPIU).
- Reviewing and approving the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) of the NPIU.
- Reviewing implementation progress periodically.
- Overseeing operational activities of State Steering Committees.
- Considering recommendations put forward by State Steering Committees for financing proposals in Institute Development Plans.
- Considering proposals for the Incentive and Innovations Funds and deciding on proposals that are to be financed.
- Appraising proposals from Ministry of Labour & Employment for policy development activities and suggesting areas for policy development to be taken up by NPIU.
- Scrutinizing and approving proposals for foreign training and study tours.

(b) State Steering Committee

Composition:-State Steering Committee (SSC) has ten members as follows:

- The Principal Secretary, Department of Labour/Technical Education/Secretary (as applicable) as the Chairperson,
- Financial Advisor/Financial Controller of the concerned Department,
- Chief Engineer of the State Public Works Department or his nominee not below the rank of a Superintending Engineer,
- Three industry members nominated by major industry associations,
- Three memeber having knowledge and interest in vocational training nominated by the State/UT Government,
- The State Director shall be the *ex-officio* member, and shall act as Secretary of the SSC.

Functions:

- Guiding the work of the State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) and authorizing reports to the State Government, to the NSC, and to the World Bank.
- Assessing and recommending the IDPs for financing under the project.
- Overseeing operational activities within the State.
- Preparing applications for sanction of Innovation Fund.
- Reviewing and approving the training plans for the staff of SPIU and of institutions.
- Reviewing and recommending to the NSC foreign training plans.
- Meeting quarterly, or more frequently as required, to take stock of the project and facilitate project implementation.
- Recommending to the NSC proposals for the use of the Incentive Fund.

Statement-II

Scheme of Upgradation of 1396 Govt. ITIs through Public Private Participation

(a) National Steering Committee

Composition: The National Steering Committee (NSC) has 12 members as follows:

- The Secretary Ministry of Labour & Employment, as the Chairperson,
- The Director General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour & Employment as the *ex-officio* member Secretary,
- The Financial Advisor, Ministry of Labour & Employment as member,
- Three representatives nominated by Industry Associations namely, CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM,
- Three representatives nominated by the Central Government, and
- Three representatives of State Governments (by **rotation)**

Functions:

- Guiding the overall implementation and monitoring of the scheme.
- Guiding the work of the National Implementation Cell (NIC).
- Reviewing progress of implementation of the scheme and taking corrective measures for improvement.
- Scrutinising cases of default in repayment of loan under the scheme and imposing penalty or take any other action deemed fit.
- Suggesting areas for policy development to be taken up by National Implementation Cell.
- Any other issues considered necessary for the effective implementation of the scheme.

(b) State Steering Committees

Composition: The State Steering Committees (SSC) has 10 members as follows:

- The Secretary/Principal Secretary, Department of Labour/Technical Education/ Secretary dealing with ITIs (as applicable) as the Chairperson,
- The Financial Advisor/Financial Controller/any other authority dealing with the finances of the concerned Department, as member,

- The Chief Engineer of the State PWD or other State approved agency for construction works or his nominee not below the rank of a Superintending Engineer, as member,
- Three industry representatives nominated by major industry associations, as members,
- Three members having knowledge, expertise and interest in vocational training nominated by, and
- The State/UT Government, as members, The State Director dealing with ITIs shall be the *ex-officio* member, and shall act as Secretary of the SSC.

Functions:

- Guiding overall implementation and monitoring of the Scheme at the State level,
- Assessing and recommending the Institute Development Plans (IDPs) of the Institute Management Committee (IMC) for financing under the Scheme to the Central Government,
- Authorising submission of reports to the NSC or Central Government, wherever required, under the scheme,
- Reviewing and approving the training plans for the staff of State Implementation Cell (SIC),
- Coordination with the Industry/Industry Partners/Industry Associations at the State level to solve their problems in implementation, if any,
- Performing any other specific function as provided under the tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to be signed among the Central Government, State Govt. and Industry Partner.

Import of Chinese toys

†*85. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons of returning to China the toys imported by America in the year 2007;

(b) whether it is a fact that China is supplying those toys to India which were returned by America;

(c) whether there exists a system to check the quality of toys imported from China;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) There is no firm information available with Government of India about return of imported toys by America to China in the year 2007. Similarly there is no information available regarding China supplying the toys to India, which were returned by America. However, it is understood that in recent months, the largest number of recalls of toys imported from China into USA has been due to United States Consumer Product Safety Commission having found excess level of lead paint, violating the US Government lead paint standard. There were some other toys/ children articles which were recalled due to design or manufacturing defects which had or could have caused injury. Among the most extensive recalls of this nature was the recall of Barbie and Tanner magnetic toys by MATTEL due to magnets coming loose which could be swallowed by children. There were also cases of toys recalled due to fire/burning hazard.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.